

Proposed Bill No. 5654

January Session, 2009

LCO No. 777

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by: REP. DREW, 132nd Dist.

AN ACT ENCOURAGING IMPROVEMENT OF TRANSIT SERVICE IN CONNECTICUT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 That the general statutes be amended to provide that master 2 operating agreements between the Department of Transportation and 3 independent transit districts shall be drafted, reviewed and executed 4 prior to the beginning of the contract period; that as part of such 5 contract enforcement, transit districts may submit invoices to the DOT 6 and have such invoices honored by the DOT while the processing of 7 the contract addendum occurs, thus creating no delay in the flow of funds; that a written, fiscal year funding commitment from DOT to a 9 district for operating funds shall be provided within thirty days after 10 the state budget becomes law enable transit districts time to make 11 necessary adjustments to operations in order to end the year within the 12 budget; that such districts may rollover surplus subsidies to create a 13 "rainy day" contingency fund to be used for future operating deficits; 14 that to encourage transit district efficiency, a district that carries 15 forward funds shall not receive less funding in the subsequent fiscal 16 year; that if the state receives additional funding for Connecticut

- 17 Transit to cover a deficit, it shall provide the same assistance to the
- districts; and that if the state does not have funds to do so, it shall
- 19 allow Connecticut Transit to respond to increased expenses in the
- 20 same manner as such districts.

Statement of Purpose:

To improve the efficiency of transit service in Connecticut, encourage transit districts to maintain contingency funds and be entrepreneurial in attracting customers and creative in reducing costs, and require that creative and efficient districts are not penalized by receiving less funding.